

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8437

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 1990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, IR, PGOV

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION: KESTER HEASLIP

REF: STATE 46366

1. KESTER HEASLIP, NOW TO BECOME ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN A COUNSELOR IN THE IRISH MISSION TO THE EC, RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS. PRIOR TO BRUSSELS, HE SERVED IN THE IRISH EMBASSY IN PARIS, AND SOMEWHAT EARLIER IN HIS CAREER WAS POSTED IN OTTAWA.
2. HEASLIP, WHO IS IN HIS EARLY-MID FORTIES, IS A PROTESTANT WHO STUDIED ENGLISH LITERATURE AT TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN. HIS WIFE IS A FORMER CANADIAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN.
3. SEVERAL OFFICERS OF THIS MISSION HAVE KNOWN HEASLIP SOCIALLY, AND WE KNOW HE HAD AMERICAN EMBASSY FRIENDS IN PARIS. HIS FRIENDLINESS TOWARDS AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY NOTABLE IN COMPARISON TO SOME OF HIS IRISH COLLEAGUES HERE IN BRUSSELS, MAY REFLECT IN PART HIS WIFE'S BACKGROUND. SHE IS A RATHER "AMERICAN" CANADIAN (FROM THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES) WHO TRIES TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH HOME BY REGULARLY AND AVIDLY READING THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD-TRIBUNE.

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4. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH HEASLIP. SOME OF US HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT, ON BOTH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE, HE IS A BIT VAGUE. IT DOES SEEM CLEAR THAT HE HAS NO SPECIAL BACKGROUND IN ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND HE HAS NOT WORKED ON DETAILED ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHILE IN BRUSSELS.

5. HEASLIP HAS DISPLAYED STRONG VIEWS ON CERTAIN SUBJECTS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE IS TOUCHY ABOUT ANYTHING HE TAKES TO BE A HINT OF IRELAND'S INADEQUACY TO ITS CURRENT ROLE AS EC PRESIDENT. LESS TO BE EXPECTED IS HIS STRONG NEGATIVE VIEW OF FRANCE AS AN IRRESPONSIBLE OPERATOR IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS FRANCE'S ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS THE MIDDLE EAST. HEASLIP HAS ALSO EXPRESSED A RATHER BELLICOSE ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, WHICH WE FIND AN INTERESTING BACKGROUND TO A REPORT WE HAVE HEARD HERE THAT ONE OF HIS MAIN FUNCTIONS IN DUBLIN WILL BE TO MANAGE THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD BY A SOURCE HERE THAT HEASLIP WAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN FOR HIS NEW POST BY FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PERSONAL CONTACT. GREENWALD

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